

DAVID N. MURDOCK



David N. Murdock, eldest son of Joseph Stacy Murdock and Jane Sharp, was born April 23, 1855, at "Church Pastures," Salt Lake City, Utah. He rode horses early in life, herding cows in the foothills, always on the lookout for Indians, so he could ride fast and warn the settlers. While in Fillmore, when around 12 years of age, he was asked to take the place of a sick Pony Express rider. He rode for three months, receiving full federal pay, and bought his first pair of spurs.

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HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

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"D. N." was healthy, strong, and a hard worker. His father was the first bishop in the valley. He was called away from home much of the time to assist the saints to get settled, so young David had big responsibilities in early life helping with the family. He earned money and materials working in the timber, logging, road building, and freighting. By exchanging work with other men, he managed to get a two-room house built for his mother, which is still in good condition and is occupied. With authority from President Abram Hatch, he supervised the building of the first fence around our Heber Cemetery. He loved nature. The hills, valleys, mountains, rivers and forests were his education. He had little schooling. He always liked, and owned, good horses and traveled many, many miles on horseback. He knew oxen from "A to Z."

On January 14, 1878, he married Margaret Todd. He built a good two-room frame house with red sandstone walks all around, quarried with oxen from nearby hills. He was proud to bring his bride of a year to their own home, all paid for. Together they enjoyed relatives and friends. Many times strangers, Indians, and even tramps, ate at their table. All were made welcome. He was a good provider, always ready and willing to help anyone in need. Five sons and six daughters were reared here.

He was interested in ranching, range land, cattle, horses, but he never owned sheep. He had wagons, buggies, a bicycle, only one car, and he never cared to travel in an airplane. In later years he enjoyed seeing the big tractors, trucks, steam shovels, plow scrapers, and all the modern-day road work equipment. He also was vitally interested in the big reservoirs and waterways, thinking how much easier it was to build good roads and reservoirs than in his hard-working days with horses, plows, scrapers, wagons and a road crew.

He built the biggest barn in Wasatch County, and got out all the timber with oxen and horses during the winter months. All the logs were hand-hewn. He was an expert with ax, saw and hammer. He loved to work, and enjoyed good health all his days. He also had a healthy family. He enjoyed dancing, and gave several big public dancing parties on his birthdays, hiring

two orchestras to accommodate both old and young.

He spent his eighty-fifth birthday in Los Angeles with his sons. When they asked him what he wanted for a present he said, "A new bicycle." Not many boys his age would want such a gift, but he did, and he rode it to his last days.

Early in December he had a pain. Doctors called it appendicitis and advised an operation. He got along nicely and returned home. However, within a few days complications set in. He was returned to the hospital, where he passed away on December 13, 1951, realizing one of his greatest desires—"never to outlive his usefulness."

trade extended to a rather small area. They served regular meals and home-made ice cream and cake. When they needed music, it was furnished by a brass band led by Mr. Robert Krebs, who lived nearby."

Following Tom Monk's operation the resort was taken over by W. W. Ritter and Peter Kurellor, known as Dutch Pete, who ran it for three or four years before the Schneitter family took over again.

David N. Murdock owned a resort at the mouth of Pine Canyon about 1894 or '95, called "The Warm Lands." From his journal we read:

"At this resort there was a big plunge bath, a smaller private bath, and eight good dressing rooms, a large dance hall and eating places. Also living quarters, kitchen, dining room and bedrooms. All were built under one big roof. However, the dance hall had windows to keep the dancers cool and comfortable. An orchestra was kept there during the summer months. Dances were held each week and on holidays. The grounds were prepared for ball games, horse races, croquet and other games, with swings and other play places for the youngsters. A 'bus' ran from Provo for special celebrations. Perhaps the biggest crowd came out to see a big balloon ascend, held on the 4th of July."

The balloon was filled by spreading the silk over a fire in an effort to catch the smoke and gases. On the particular day this mentions the silk of the balloon caught fire and of course failed in its attempt to become airborne.

The journal continues: "The place had nice lawns and trees, but a big bowery was built to accommodate the crowds that came to picnic."

There were more bath houses in the area, such as Fred Buhler's which was more centrally located and used by the townspeople as a place for baptisms. These baptisms were carried on for new members and also for those whose records were lost or destroyed. Sometimes this work was carried throughout the entire day. The water in this bath was very hot and was remembered by those using it for a long time. Fred Buhler, Jr., son of the original owner constructed the present bathhouse and built it further down the hill toward the road. The building that stands is larger and the water that feeds this pool had been cooled until now it is quite comfortable. The water was piped from the old bathhouse down to the new.

Still standing is the old Joseph Galli home and one-half mile to the west the tiny bathhouse where Mr. Galli and his wife would teach children of the community to swim. The patient couple were responsible for instructing many Midway youngsters in the sport, and the warm waters of their spring-fed pool became a delightful playground for local boys and girls.

In 1947 Luke's Hot Pots was sold to Joe B. Erwin for \$100,000. Erwin was one of the first to envision Heber Valley as a national resort area, drawing thousands of visitors and greatly benefiting the economy of Wasatch County. He added a new outside swimming pool to the



The old Smith home in Heber where many dances were held during the years on the second floor.

the famous "Bolton Choir" of England and performed on several occasions before Queen Victoria.

Through their training and interest in music, the Forties organized one of the first choirs in Heber Valley. The only music in the beginning was an old Sanky and Moody hymnal which Mr. Fortie had brought from Scotland. There was no organ or piano available for accompaniment, so Mr. Fortie would play the cornet and teach choir members the notes, and then play the cornet while the choir sang their numbers.

When Wasatch Stake was organized, Mr. Fortie became the first stake chorister. By this time an organ had been purchased and Jane H. Turner and Mary Bond were trained as accompanists for choirs and other singing.

Another early music leader in Heber was Roger Horrocks who played a bass viol, which he affectionately called his "Baby." Mr. Horrocks accompanied the choir singing, and provided music for many special programs and dances. Other popular musicians in early Heber included "Hen" Walker, Jim Wheeler and Will Murdock who played the banjo, violin and accordion, and Robert McKnight, a violinist. The Murdock brothers, Tom, Dave, Brig and Joe, along with Dick Duke and Edd Murdock were also popular dance musicians.

In addition to choir singing, music was primarily enjoyed for dancing parties. Orchestras or individual musicians traveled throughout the valley to play for dances and socials. The music for many years con-

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